

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Due to the following amendments, the previous rejections are rendered moot.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Chad Wells on 12/16/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

lines 7-8 KW 2/18/10
In claim 69, ~~line 6~~; please DELETE "tumbling laundry in the wash drum by rotating the wash drum when water is in the wash tub;" and INSERT --rotating the wash drum about a substantially horizontal axis when water is in the wash tub;--

In claim 69, line 12, please DELETE "tumbling the laundry" and insert --rotating the drum--

4 KW 2/18/10
In claim 70, line ~~3~~, please DELETE "wetting the laundry with the water;"

CANCEL claims 81-88

lines 6-7 KW 2/18/10
In claim 89, ~~line 6~~; please DELETE "tumbling laundry in the wash drum by rotating the wash drum when water is in the wash tub;" and INSERT --rotating the wash drum about a substantially horizontal axis when water is in the wash tub;--

Art Unit: 1792

In claim 89 line 42, please DELTE "tumbling the laundry" and INSERT -rotating the drum--.

In claim 90, line 3, please DELETE "wetting the laundry with the water;"

In claim 94 ~~line 7~~, please DELETE "tumbling laundry in the wash drum by rotating the wash drum when water is in the wash tub;--" and INSERT --rotating the wash drum about a substantially horizontal axis when water is in the wash tub;--

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art teaches input water vapor or steam into a washing machine, but does not teach the steam generator as claimed and the method of applying steam as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON HECKERT whose telephone number is (571)272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.